

Claims 1-3 (Canceled).

Claims 5-7 (Canceled).

wherein the small open recesses are formed by embossing the absorbent layer prior to compression so that a fiber density of the absorbent layer is increased in a vicinity of the small open recesses.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): A sanitary tampon as set forth in claim 8, wherein prior to compression, the small open recesses have an opening diameter of 0.5 to 1.0 mm and a depth of 1 to 5 mm and are distributed in a density of 1 to 10 recesses/cm².